

T. J. Long

HEALTH
CICERO

RURAL DISTRICT OF TENTERDEN KENT



ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector for the Year 1957

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1957.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 7,290 which was an increase of 30 over that in 1956.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 111 (50 male, 61 female), which was an increase of 1 over that of 1956, and the crude birth-rate was accordingly 15.23; adjusted by the Registrar General's comparability factor, which is based on a standardised population for comparison of the rate with other Districts, the rate becomes 16.45 and compares favourably with that of 16.1 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

There was only one stillbirth and the rate of 8.92 was low compared with that of 22.4 for England and Wales.

Adequate ante-natal and obstetric care are essential to keep avoidable stillbirths at a minimum.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

One infant death was registered, the cause of death having been:- Sclerema and Prematurity.

The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 9.09 and compares favourably with that of 23.0 for England and Wales.

Complementary to the services of the family Practitioner, who is chiefly concerned with children suffering from illness, the Child Welfare Clinics make an unobtrusive but valuable contribution towards the prevention of infant deaths.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

There were no deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion and the rate was therefore nil.

At the beginning of this Century, the rate was 5 maternal deaths for every 1,000 total (live and still) births throughout the Country; today, the rate is under 1, and represents about 500 deaths annually.

Toxaemia of pregnancy is the principal cause and many of these deaths are avoidable according to a report by the Central Health Services Council; inadequate ante-natal care involving failure of early diagnosis and treatment is stated to be the over-shadowing factor.

Total Deaths and Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 65 (38 male, 27 female), and the crude death rate was 8.91; adjusted by the Registrar General's comparability factor, as for births, the rate becomes 7.92 and is low compared with that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

The chief cause of deaths was Heart Disease and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, most of which are the natural and terminal causes of deaths

amongst the aged.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart is, however, an exception, as it claims many victims amongst the middle-aged. There were 9 deaths from this cause, and the ages at death were 54, 60, 69, 69, 73, 75, 76, 80 and 80 years. It is thought that prolonged mental stress and excessive smoking are important contributory factors.

Cancer, as expected, caused the second highest number of deaths, viz. 18 or 27.7% of the total deaths.

Cancer of the lung caused one death in a male, aged 57 years. The postulation that gross atmospheric pollution and excessive smoking are important causative factors has many advocates.

The insidious nature of the disease and procrastination by patients to seek medical advice, are common factors associated with late diagnosis. Successful treatment is completely dependent upon reasonably early diagnosis.

There would also appear to be a need in the Hospital Services for a more highly specialised centres for early diagnosis and treatment.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual incidence.

There was no death from Infectious Disease, which is a vastly different picture from that as recently as 25 years ago, and illustrates the rapid progress of medical science.

Infectious Disease

Measles

There was the customary outbreak of this disease 68 cases having been notified. Owing to its highly infectious nature, it rapidly spreads through class-rooms, and it is fortunate that it is not by itself dangerous to life. Less than 1% of children suffer from Broncho-pneumonia, which is its most dangerous complication. Occasionally, the onset of pneumonia precedes the appearance of the rash and may advance rapidly within 24 hours; treatment with Antibiotics is usually specific and only fails if the pneumonia has become too far advanced.

No protective vaccine or toxoid has been produced against Measles, nor would it appear to be practical to use such on a large scale.

Gamma globulin is, however, available at the Public Health Laboratory to provide passive immunity when required, and is occasionally used to protect a child who is suffering from another serious illness; if given within five days from exposure, it should prevent the onset of the disease and if given within several days later, it should moderate the illness.

Whooping Cough

There was also a small outbreak of this disease, 27 cases having been notified. The disease is most dangerous to infants owing to the excessive secretion of catarrh which the infant has little strength to expectorate and partial collapse of the lung with asphyxiation may be a sequela. Broncho-pneumonia is also a dangerous complication but, as in Measles, it occurs in less than 1% of children.

It is hoped that the modern vaccines, which are now available at the Child Welfare Clinics, in addition to those available through the family Practitioner, will effectively protect the child from this disease.

Asian Influenza

A wide-spread outbreak of this unusual illness occurred early in the Autumn. The disease originated from China/Japan and quickly became pandemic

The virus was identified locally by the Public Health Laboratory Service,

as Asian A/England/527/57.

The illness commonly began with a high temperature which gradually declined to normal about the 5th day. The site of infection was the upper respiratory tract and acute tracheitis accompanied by a severe unproductive cough was not infrequent. Patients were incapacitated for an average time of seven to fourteen days.

Pneumonia was the most dangerous complication due to secondary bacteria invading the lung tissue; of these, the *Staphylococcus aureus* was the most virulent and was the cause of several fulminating deaths in other Districts.

The epidemic tailed off before the onset of winter and although sporadic cases occurred later, there was no second wave of infection, as happened elsewhere.

Polioomyelitis

No case of this disease was notified.

Vaccination of children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years, and of expectant mothers, has been proceeding as the sufficiency of vaccine has allowed. There is firm ground for optimism that the level of immunity induced will protect those inoculated.

Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough, no other cases of Infectious Disease were notified.

Tuberculosis

One new respiratory case (male, aged 69 years), and one new non-respiratory case (inguinal glands, male 46 years), were notified. There was one death, a patient who had not been notified before death as suffering from the disease.

A new era has been reached in the history of this disease, which has been the scourge of man for centuries and was appropriately called the White Plague. Modern methods of ascertainment and diagnosis include the Mass Radiography Service and immediate Hospital X-ray, modern treatment by surgery and drug therapy is very successful; only for the advanced cases in whom the lungs have been extensively damaged is the outlook serious.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance, and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1957

Area:- 38,002 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	7,290
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...	...	...	2,575
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£64,851
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£259

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Tenterden Rural District is predominately agricultural in its interests - there are only a few light industries, and generally, social conditions are satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Tenterden Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. Live Births	111	50	61	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.23 (Adjusted rate 16.45)	16.1
(a) Legitimate	106	47	59			
(b) Illegitimate	5	3	2			
2. Stillbirths	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	8.92	22.4
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. Deaths	65	38	27	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	8.91 (Adjusted rate 7.92)	11.5
4. Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not available
5. Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.	1	-	1			
(a) Legitimate	1	-	1			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					9.09	23.0
Rate re legitimate infants					9.43	
Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	18	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	-
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	-

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, 1957.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	27
Measles	...	...	...	...	68
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT

DURING 1957

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
ALL CAUSES					38	27
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	-	-
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	-	-
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	...	...	...	...	1	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	11	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	-	-
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	...	...	...	...	3	7
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	6	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	-	1
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	4	5
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	-	1
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	-
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	2
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	-	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	-	-
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	3	-
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	-	-

Immunisation against Diphtheria and
Vaccination against Smallpox, 1957

The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Primary Inoculations	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	9	62	6	84
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	3	12	38	-	2	-	-	-	61

(B) VACCINATION

																Before 1943	
Primary Vaccination	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	27	49	2	85
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	17

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1957

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1943).

Year of Birth	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1953 - 1957	34	32	30	48	40	51	50	54	65	110	111	80	4	69	6	880
1952 or earlier	20	18	25	11	38	15	34	73	47	6	-	-	-	-	-	295

Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1957

The following table gives the numbers of children who received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
	43	45	37	33	22	11	15	6	1	1	-	214

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1957

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total Cases or Register</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	32	13	6
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Totals	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-				

There was one death from tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The Mid-Kent Water Company supplies the whole of the area, excepting remote dwellings or homesteads.

There was no contamination in the piped supplies throughout the year but five contaminated well supplies were found and the owners were advised to boil all that intended for drinking purposes.

	Bacteriological		Chemical	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Raw Water	-	-	-	-
Treated Water	7	Satisfactory	6	Satisfactory

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The new sewerage scheme for the remainder of Stone village/^{was} completed and put into operation, and work was commenced on the Woodchurch sewerage scheme.

3. Housing

Demolition and Closing Orders

	Number of	
	Houses	Persons displaced
(1) Housing Act, 1936		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	10	1
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11, and still in force	1	3
(c) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(2) Housing Act, 1949		
(a) Closing Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	Nil	Nil
Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	Nil	Nil

Improvements and Conversions

Number of schemes submitted	...	...	...	21
Number of schemes approved	...	...	...	18 (3 withdrawn)
Total Costs	...	...	...	£15,692. 4. 11d.
Grants made	...	...	...	£6,229. 3. 10d.

Proposals submitted for dealing with unfit houses in slum clearance plans:

Houses scheduled for demolition in the Council's 5 year programme (from 31st August 1955) - 55.

Position at the end of 1957:-

Demolished	...	...	14
Re-conditioned	...	...	5
Empty or closed	...	...	20
Occupied	...	...	16

			55

4. Hop Pickers' Camps

During the season, there were 15 small Camps accommodating 750 persons, which were mainly supervised by farmers. Inspections were made by the Public Health Inspector before, during, and after occupation and appropriate notices were served under the Council's bye-laws. Improvements in the storage and disposal of refuse were made.

5. Milk and Dairies

The number of Registered Distributors was 8 and that of Registered Dairies was 5.

Licences Granted under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised	8	1
Sterilised	2	1
Tuberculin Tested (Raw)	2	-
Accredited	-	-

Milk Sampling

	<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>No. of unsatisfactory Samples.</u>
Pasteurised	19	-
Tuberculin Tested	9	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	7	-
Sterilised	-	-
Biological examination of raw milks	4	-

6. Inspection of Food and Food Preparing Premises

Five licensed slaughterhouses were in operation. Five Bakehouses, 11 Hotel and Restaurant kitchens, 8 Butchers' shops and 1 Fish Frying premises were regularly inspected and necessary action taken under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1948

Number of Retailers - 27

Sampling:-	Grade 1	...	10	Grade 3	...	Nil
	Grade 2	...	Nil	Grade 4	...	Nil

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	214	-	33	198	538
No. inspected	214	-	33	198	538
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	-	-	1	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	-	3%	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2%	-	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ %

Food condemned during the year:- 18 cwts. 0 qtr. 10 lbs.

Sanitary Inspection of the District

Details of inspection work carried out:-

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Defects</u>
Bakehouses	5	27	-
Slaughterhouses	5	220	-
Other food-preparing premises (excluding ice cream)	19	91	2
Factories and workplaces	42	124	3
Offensive trades	-	-	-

Total number of inspections during the year 2,299

Housing Repairs and Improvements

Baths, lavatory basins, washing accommodation, sinks, etc.	24
Cesspools (abolished, repaired or emptied)	26
Cooking etc., hot water, fireplaces etc.	25
Dampness	9
Doors	5
Drainage (re-constructed or repaired)	39
Floors	9
Food storage	8
Sanitary accommodation (defective or insufficient)	9
Staircases	2
Water supply	1
Roofs, chimneys, rainwater pipes	4
Walls	4
Windows and ventilation	8
Yards and paving	2
Miscellaneous	20

8. Rent Act, 1957

(i)	No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	4
(ii)	No. of Certificates issued	4

9. Rodent Control

Routine survey of the area was continued during the year, and necessary treatment carried out at farms, business premises and dwellings.

229 infestations (not including re-treatments) received attention, as follows:-

(a)	As a result of survey	...	...	...	116
(b)	Reports to Offices	...	...	...	113

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	42	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	70	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	12	-	-
Total	42	124	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred:-		
			To H.M. Inspec- tor	By H.M. Inspec- tor	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Bot separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	1	-